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Cyprus Charges Espionage Involving Ex-Envoy of U.S.

Special to The New York Times

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 6.—Minister of the Interior Polycarpou Georghiades, said tonight that Cyprus had been "following closely" the activities of a spy ring in which Cypriotes and foreigners were involved.

The statement followed a series of articles this week in the Greek-language Nicosia newspaper Agon. The paper published what it said were photocopies of letters exchanged between spies in London and Cyprus.

"The documents published concerning this affair are, unfortunately, genuine," Mr. Georghiades said.

Agon said the head of the spy ring, stationed in London, was an American. It also said that a former United States Ambassador to Cyprus, Fraser Wilkins, had been involved in espionage.

A spokesman for the United States Embassy said tonight, "Any allegations that Americans have been involved in activities that are inimical to the interests of the Government of Cyprus are patently false."